

## Patent claims

1. Coin distributor (1) containing a deflection unit (2) which has a displaceable deflection member (3) for sorting coins (7) into different coin shafts (4, 5) or the like, and at least one device (6) for detecting the passage of a coin through a coin shaft, this device including at least one emitter (6a), a beam switcher (6b) and a beam receiver (6c), characterised in that the beam switcher is secured to the displaceable deflection member (3).
2. Coin distributor according to claim 1, characterised in that a first (6) and a second (8) device for detecting the passage of a coin are provided, the direction of a coin (7) along a coin path (9) in at least one coin shaft being capable of being detected from the signals of the beam receivers.
3. Coin distributor according to claim 2, characterised in that the first device (6) for detecting the passage of a coin is arranged on the displaceable deflection member (3), and the second device (8) is arranged downstream or upstream in respect of the coin path.
4. Coin distributor according to claim 1, characterised in that the emitter is an infrared light-emitting diode (6a).
5. Coin distributor according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the beam switcher is a mirror which deflects singly or multiply or a prism (6b) which deflects singly or multiply.
6. Coin distributor according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the beam receiver is an infrared light receiver (6c).
7. Coin distributor according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the coin shafts are a return shaft (5) and/or one or more acceptance shafts (4).
8. Coin distributor according to one of the preceding claims,

characterised in that the displaceable deflection member is a deflection device (3) which can be displaced in translation and/or a pivotable flap.

9. Coin distributor according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that the beam switcher (6b) is so designed that, when coin shaft (4) is not blocked by a coin (7) or the like and the radiant power of the emitter (6a) remains the same, the quantity of radiation received by the beam receiver (6b) remains substantially the same.